

# WASHINGTON SETS THE PACE FOR PEACE CONFERENCE

New Pacific agreement which the Japanese Government has approved in advance of its acceptance of the naval ratio formula run pretty close together. They coincide to the extent that the agreement relating to the Pacific will be brief and in the nature of an understanding free from the objections raised against the League of Nations covenant.

The draft of the new plan for Pacific security, which is now receiving revision at the hands of the American delegates, is in the nature of a declaration that an agreement to respect the rights of all nations having possessions in those waters is necessary to the peace of the world.

The four Powers therefore pledge themselves to respect the territorial rights of one another in the Pacific, but do not guarantee military cooperation as proposed under Article X of the League of Nations.

Another feature of the new agreement is that the signatory nations agree not to attack one another until a conference of the others has been held to try to adjust the differences by arbitration.

Like Bryan Treaties.

This provision is somewhat like that proposed in the "cooling off" treaties negotiated by Bryan when Secretary of State in 1914. Another provision of the Balfour agreement is that three of the signatories shall tender their good offices to adjust disputes between a member of the Entente and any outside Power.

Speculation as to the relation between the Hughes limitation of armaments plan and the new Pacific agreement was set at rest to-night by the statement of Baron Kato of the Japanese delegation, who said that his Government had considered the naval plan by itself. This statement was concurred in by a member of the American delegation. So it is highly improbable the naval agreement will figure in the quadruple arrangement.

A Japanese spokesman admitted that the decision of his Government on the naval matter was on its way from Tokyo and that a part of it had actually been received. He would not indicate the character of it, but delegates still believe that the Japanese Government will accept the Hughes formula for the limitation of capital ships.

Couldn't Keep Secret.

The British and Japanese representatives did not attempt to conceal their satisfaction over the trend of events during the last week. So confident were they that the United States would accept the four Power plan for maintaining peace in the Pacific that they acted like small boys with a Christmas secret. They said when they had reached the conference that they would be surprised to find that the United States had not accepted the plan. They developed in corridor conversation and found immediate circulation among the newspaper correspondents.

Officials of this Government and its delegates in the conference declined to discuss the matter in any way and thereby drew down on their innocent heads Congressional charges of "secret diplomacy."

The American delegates made no answer to these criticisms beyond repeating their statements that they would not venture into any definite arrangement in the nature of foreign alliances without taking counsel with the leaders of Congress and communicating their purposes to the people of the country.

One of the American delegates declared this afternoon that the attitude of the delegation is precisely the same as it has been from the start of the conference. He said he did not believe it wise to discuss the exchange of preliminaries to any arrangement before there was something definite to talk about.

Delegation's Position.

"The delegation takes the position," he says, "that it must respect the confidence of the representatives of other nations even though it enjoys freedom in making known its own attitude on specific propositions. You will know as soon as I know about these specific undertakings. Nothing is going to be done to evade or escape responsibility without consulting all persons entitled to receive information of our plans and purposes. The public will be informed as soon as definite plans are reached. That may come very soon. It may be only a matter of hours before a definite announcement of one or more features of the conference can be made."

He declined to discuss the origin of published reports regarding the form or substance of any agreements reached regarding Far Eastern and Pacific matters. He said that the substance of statements attributing the course of such reports to British and Japanese authorities, merely saying the delegates of this country did not seek to exercise control over the conduct of those of other Governments.

The most definite statement coming from the American delegation this afternoon was the announcement that the United States will be represented at the conference by the United States delegation to the League of Nations.

Chief Credit Is Balfour's.

One of the main reasons for the promotion of the four Power plan for maintaining peace in the Pacific is generally ascribed to Arthur James Balfour, the leader of the British delegation. The story it dates back to last Friday, when the British delegates believed there was a chance of obtaining the cooperation of the United States with Great Britain and Japan in reaching an agreement on the Far Eastern matters that would justify abandonment of the Anglo-Japanese alliance, which is not looked upon with favor by the American Government. It is quite uncertain as to the character of the information on which the British and Japanese delegates based hope or confidence that the United States could be induced to enter into any such arrangement.

Officials of the two foreign delegations and journalists representing the most important newspapers in England and Japan were so positive of it they unequivocally asserted in their dispatches that President Harding had consented to submit an "Anglo-American-Japanese" treaty to the Senate.

STEEL AS STAFF LEWIS' SPEECH BALKS CRITICS

Intriguers and Wreckers Get No Chances to Complete Machinations.

LEFT PANTING BEHIND

As a Result Wails Are Being Made That Things Move Too Fast.

REAL POLICY ADHERED TO

London Writer Pays Tribute to Harding and Hughes for Notable Precedent.

By WICKHAM STEED.

Editor of the London Times.

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—When this conference is over, Sir Maurice Hankey, secretary-general to the British delegation, might write an essay upon the high speed process in international deliberations. It would form a useful appendix to his well known lecture on "Diplomacy by Conference."

Representatives of Great Britain, France and Japan are known to have reached an agreement over the Balfour four Power plan on Wednesday. Yesterday morning a draft of it was made and submitted to Secretary Hughes, who placed it before President Harding and his associates in the American delegation. After that there was nothing for the British, French and Japanese delegates to do but await the decision of the American delegates which, so far as the public was informed this afternoon, had not been reached.

Excellent Prospect to End Pact.

The representatives of the three foreign countries seem to have agreed that the prospect for the new agreement is a diplomatic instrument that would justify the abandonment of the Anglo-Japanese alliance was most felicitous. The representatives of Great Britain and Japan naturally congratulated one another on finding a way of escaping from the embarrassments of the contract between them.

The exchange of these amenities furnished an optimistic touch to all conference undertakings in their opinion, and were comprehensive enough to include persons in whom confidence was reposed, but who could not resist the temptation to talk about the event. In that way several versions of the terms of the Balfour contract were freely discussed last night. All of these versions agreed as to one feature, that the new agreement would bind the signatories to respect but not guarantee the territorial possessions of one nation in the Pacific Ocean.

Confirmation of the theory upon which this conviction was built was provided by the anxiety of the Chinese to be included in any arrangement made relating to Pacific problems. Inasmuch as all possessions that China ever had in the Pacific have been reached up to tonight and neither side would make predictions as to the final outcome. Chinese partisans who protested vehemently against "direct negotiations" over the Shantung controversy have begun to cool off and permit their representatives to proceed with the "conversations" with the Japanese delegates without interference.

Advices from China are that the conference has been settled one way or the other early next week. A report that the Chinese delegates participating in the Shantung "conversations" had served notice on their Japanese conferees that they would retire unless an agreement is reached within four days was denied by the former.

The best information is that there have been one or two vigorous passages between the rival groups and on one occasion the Chinese delegates, if "China was off." American and European delegates are keeping a close eye on the negotiations and encouraging the Chinese and Japanese disputants to reach an agreement if possible, so that the long drawn out controversies may be adjusted outside of the conference.

It is believed from the progress made that the matter will be settled one way or the other early next week. Adjustment of it by the two interested parties would save a lot of time and greatly relieve the American and foreign delegates, who do not want to be directly involved in the row, from talking sides. If an agreement can be reached the other Chinese problems engaging the attention of the subcommittee will be taken up by the committee and disposed of with less friction than would certainly characterize the public discussion of the Shantung conflict.

Two groups of Siberians and a delegation of Koreans headed by Singman Rhee, president of the provisional republic of Korea, are awaiting an opportunity to get into the picture. They are ambitious to present an appeal for relief from irksome conditions imposed by Japanese activities in their respective countries. The two Siberian groups represent the Far Eastern Government with headquarters at Chita and the Vladivostok Government.

The Korean delegation is ambitious to have the Korean boundary restored. The Siberians and Koreans have brought with them evidence to show the extent and effect of the conditions forced on them by the Japanese.

QUOTES HARDING AS SAYING BOZZE 10 YEARS TO VANISH

Report to Methodist Episcopal Church Says President Predicted Liquor Would Be Out of Politics and Memory Within Decade.

CHICAGO, Dec. 9.—A prelection statement on prohibition attributed to President Harding, and quoting him as saying that "in another generation I believe that liquor will have disappeared not merely from our politics but from our memories," represents his views on the subject, according to a report made to the committee on the liquor traffic and advance of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The report was made by the Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Public Morals and includes correspondence between the board and George B. Christian, President Harding's secretary, regarding the statement.

Mr. Christian, in reply to a question whether the statement was authentic, said there was no record of the precise statement having been used by the President, but that it was a "very fair view of the President's views on the subject."

"In every community men and women have had an opportunity to know now what prohibition means. The knowledge that debtors are more promptly paid, that men take home the wages that once were wasted in saloons, that families are better clothed and fed and more money finds its way into savings banks. The liquor traffic was destructive of much that was most precious in American life."

"In the face of so much evidence on that point, what conscientious man would want to let his own selfish desires influence him to vote to bring it back?" In another generation, he believed, that liquor will have disappeared not merely from our politics but from our memories.

President, but that it was a "very fair view of the President's views on the subject."

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 9.—In the following interview given this evening Mr. Rene Viviani, head of the French delegation, says he wishes to make France's naval position clear.

The French Parliament has just voted appropriations for new vessels and decided to increase the French naval personnel. The new French vessels are to be three light cruisers, six destroyers, twelve torpedo boats and twelve submarines. There are also supplementary provisions for three more light cruisers and twenty-four more submarines.

The first of these vessels will not be completed for three or four years, and it is understood that the cruisers will be of less than 1,000 tons.

"Criticisms of the American press," said Mr. Viviani, "have expressed some surprise at the information from Paris about the budget estimates which the French Government has just voted as appropriations for the French navy. Public attention has been particularly called to the fact that the naval staff is going to be increased and pass from 51,000 to 52,000 men."

"This increase is even pointed out as appearing to be in opposition to the views generally set forth at the Washington conference by its chairman, Mr. Hughes, and to which Mr. Briand has adhered substantially on the French side. This has served as a reason to start a new debate on the naval claims of France. It seems useful not to allow public opinion in America to be led astray in this respect."

"It may first be permissible to say that no definite data have been communicated to the press about the intentions of France regarding her navy. The committee on the subject, which entered into the measures concerning the French navy have come up for examination before the conference. It is derived from the undertaking that the French navy is to be increased by 10,000 men."

"As regards the increase in personnel aimed at in the press articles to which mention has already been made above, it is to be observed that the normal budget estimates for 1922 actually provided for an increase of 1,000 men above the effective provided for in 1921. The difference, therefore, is significant. This moderate increase corresponds in no way whatever to an enlargement of the French fleet. Nor does the construction of small units which has just been approved by the French Parliament constitute an actual increase of the fleet."

"France has not built anything during the war, either to complete her naval programme or for the maintenance of her fleet. The units which have been ordered part in the war, and especially smaller units, have been engaged to such an extent that they have had to suffer considerably from wear and tear; it is indispensable to replace them, unless the flag of the French navy is to disappear altogether from the surface of the sea."

"That is the reason why, no construction of new units, and only as regards the armaments, France is under the obligation to begin to carry out a very limited programme which has been passed by Parliament to put the fleet in a proper state of repair, and only as regards very small units. This programme had already been submitted to Parliament more than a year ago."

PARIS, Dec. 9 (Associated Press).—The Chamber of Deputies adopted unanimously today the measure providing for the building of three light cruisers, six destroyers, twelve torpedo boats and twelve submarines during the period from 1922 to 1925. The programme calls for the expenditure of 160,000,000 francs in 1922, 324,000,000 in 1923, 190,000,000 in 1924 and 71,000,000 in 1925.

In voting on the budget of the Ministry of War was completely by chamber. This budget, Minister of Finance Doumer said after the last item was adopted, amounts to "a few millions over four billion francs." He pointed out that the 1922 war budget shows a decrease of 850,000,000 francs as compared with that of 1921.

WATSON THREATENS TO SLAP A MAJOR

Georgia Senator's Action Causes Uproar in Hanging Inquiry.

SESSION IS TURBULENT

'Insulted by a Look and Bulldozed' by Army Officers, He Says.

FLURRY OVER PROTESTS

Secretary Roosevelt Denies Corroborating Charges of Illegal Executions.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—Threats by Senator Watson (Ga.), Democrat, to slap the face of an army officer sitting within touch of his elbow threw the meeting of the Senate committee investigating charges that American soldiers had been illegally hanged in France, into an uproar to-day and brought a quick demand from Chairman Brandegee for a sergeant-at-arms to prevent any physical clash.

For a moment the utmost confusion prevailed. Above the din of shuffling feet as some women hurried toward the door, the voice of the chairman, in strident tones, commanded the Georgia Senator to sit down or retire from the room. Banging the table with bare knuckles, the chairman soon restored a semblance of order, but there were many heated exchanges before the meeting broke up until to-morrow afternoon.

Brief, Turbulent Meeting.

Major George W. Cocheu, attached to the General Staff, was the officer on whom Senator Watson launched his verbal attack. It happened near the close of a brief but turbulent meeting, at which Senator Watson's charge that the committee "at a secret session had prejudged the case" was rebuffed by Senator Shields (Tenn.), Democrat, a member of the committee, as untrue and wholly without foundation.

The Senator's attack on Major Cocheu hit the committee like a crash of lightning. There had been no intimation that anything of the kind was impending. Major Cocheu, sitting next to Col. Walter Bethel, Gen. Pershing's Judge Advocate General in France, had not testified, and his friends said later was present in his official capacity as chief of the legislative branch of the General Staff.

Suddenly swinging on his feet and shaking his right hand within two feet of the Major's face the Senator, his voice pitched high, exclaimed that "for two points I shall slap your jaw." The officer did not bat an eye.

Instantly Chairman Brandegee was on his feet, calling for a sergeant-at-arms to protect the officer from "an insult." Then, declaring that he, himself, had been insulted, Senator Watson announced that he would retire from the meeting.

Taking hold of the situation, Senator Shields declared the committee desired to proceed in order and suggested to Senator Watson that he had not been insulted.

"We expect you to conduct yourself here in the same manner you would others to conduct themselves toward you," said Senator Shields.

"An Insult by Looks."

"An insult can be given by looks," Senator Watson shot back, wheeling quickly again to face the officer. "If he looks at me again that way I'll slap his face. I won't sit here and be bulldozed by these officers—by this bull jawed brute."

Major Cocheu looked straight ahead at the Senator as Chairman Brandegee endeavored to get the procedure within orderly Senate bounds. After repeating his command that the Senator sit down or leave, Chairman Brandegee and Senator Watson had a free exchange as to just what had been promised in keeping officers out of the room while any of the latter's witnesses were testifying.

Finally, the chairman shouted to the Georgia Senator, asking if he wanted the officers sent away, and on being informed that he did, they were told to get out.

After that things settled down a bit. Smiles came back to Senator Watson's face as he explained that he wanted to beg the pardon of the committee, if he had acted in an unseemly manner. He added, however, that the officers sitting there and gazing at him "in an insolent manner," had aroused his "Southern" blood.

The committee later decided to hear some army officers who were to be then adjourn the open sessions for a week, so as to examine the mass of documents presented by Senator Watson. The Senator announced that he said, when he was asked to-day, that the committee agreed to summon anyone he felt could give evidence as to the illegal hangings.

Denial From Roosevelt.

The first flurry followed a protest by Senator Watson over the action of the committee in confining the inquiry to "illegal hangings." The Senator insisted that his charges covered a broader ground and that the committee was attempting to "narrow the scope of the inquiry."

Members told the Senator, however, that they were acting in entire accord with the Senate resolution and that if he wanted to go into other fields it would be necessary to go back to the Senate for authority to do so. The Senator was shot by an officer, but this statement was formally denied tonight by Assistant Secretary Roosevelt in a letter to Chairman Brandegee in which he offered to appear as a witness before the committee.

"At no time did I make, either verbally or otherwise," Mr. Roosevelt said, "these statements as reported in the press account of what Senator Watson said. I have held no communication with Senator Watson except by letter, a copy of which I enclose."

Mr. Roosevelt's letter to Senator Watson, under date of November 14, 1921, referred to the execution of a soldier of the Twenty-sixth Infantry in the autumn of 1917 for "rape and murder."

LYDD GEORGE ASKS BRIAND TO VISIT HIM

Wants Conference at Chequers to Discuss German Reparations.

CABINET URGES DELAY

Damage to Germany's Credit Feared in Enforced Heavy Payments.

LOUCHEUR CANNOT AGREE

British Premier Also Desires to Discuss Problems of Near East.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1921, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, London, Dec. 9.

The variance between the British and French views on the reparations question which developed last night at the conference between Premier Lloyd George and Louis Loucheur, French Minister of Reconstruction, at the Prime Minister's country home, Chequers, has caused Mr. Lloyd George to invite Premier Briand to London for a general survey of the situation.

The most pressing issue is the payment of Germany's January installment of 500,000,000 marks gold, but behind that is the plan for a moratorium for Germany, which is favored here. Mr. Loucheur has returned to France bearing an invitation in which Mr. Lloyd George expresses the wish that Mr. Briand will be able to spend the next week end at Chequers, and pointing out that in view of the Irish situation the British Premier cannot leave England now.

Mr. Loucheur also is carrying a message expressing the British desire for an early decision in the reparations question and urging the necessity of averting the impending crisis which surely will follow Germany's inability, also urging that the French take a broader view of the economic problems than is laid down in the Wiesbaden agreement, which provides for materials and labor as reparations payments.

Although the British Cabinet has not reached a definite decision, it is inclined to favor postponement of the reparations. The Cabinet members have been influenced by strong representations from financiers that enforced heavy payments would work an irreparable damage to Germany's finances and credit, and that in the long run England would get more out of Germany by allowing her a breathing space.

Mr. Loucheur explained in some details the French view of Germany's ability to pay, but British leaders feel that it is financially and economically impossible for Germany to meet her obligations under the treaty.

Mr. Lloyd George is anxious to see Mr. Briand regarding the Near East problems. It is authoritatively stated that further correspondence on the subject is deprecated here and that a further reaffirmation of allied solidarity is urgently desired.

PARIS, Dec. 9 (Associated Press).—Louis Loucheur, Minister of Devastated Regions, returned to Paris to-night and said he was highly satisfied with his reception in London. He declared that the British Government never for a moment had considered a plan of action independent of the French Government. He also said that in none of the conversations he had with the British Ministers was the question of a moratorium for Germany brought up.

Mr. Loucheur expressed himself as convinced that the mission to England of Hugo Stinnes, the German capitalist, had completely failed.

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GEN. MENOHER TO HAWAII.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—Major-General Charles T. Menoher was ordered to-day relieved from command of the First Division, Camp Dix, N. J., and assigned to command of the Hawaiian Division. The General, who recently was relieved as chief of the army air service upon his own request, was assigned to Camp Dix, but on account of a leave of absence did not actually take up the command.